

**National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594**

Brief of Accident

Adopted 04/01/2003

DEN03LA003						
File No. 12771		10/06/2002	Broomfield, CO	Aircraft Reg No. N65312	Time (Local): 10:00 MDT	
Make/Model:	Cessna / 172P			Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Engine Make/Model:	Lycoming / O-320-D2J		Crew	0	0	1
Aircraft Damage:	Substantial		Pass	0	0	1
Number of Engines:	1					
Operating Certificate(s):	None					
Type of Flight Operation:	Personal					
Reg. Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation					
Last Depart. Point:	Englewood, CO			Condition of Light:	Day	
Destination:	Same as Accident/Incident Location			Weather Info Src:	Weather Observation Facility	
Airport Proximity:	On Airport			Basic Weather:	Visual Conditions	
Airport Name:	Jefferson County			Lowest Ceiling:	12000 Ft. AGL, Broken	
Runway Identification:	Unk/Nr			Visibility:	50.00 SM	
Runway Length/Width (Ft):	Unk/Nr			Wind Dir/Speed:	130 / 008 Kts	
Runway Surface:	Unknown			Temperature (°C):	10	
Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown			Precip/Obscuration:	None / None	
Pilot-in-Command	Age: 53			Flight Time (Hours)		
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)				Total All Aircraft:	170	
Private; Single-engine Land				Last 90 Days:	Unk/Nr	
Instrument Ratings				Total Make/Model:	168	
None				Total Instrument Time:	UnK/Nr	

The pilot was unfamiliar with the airport and asked ground control for directions to transient parking. She was directed to an area southeast of the control tower, but the ramp was full. The pilot said her husband was talking and directing her. She asked him to be quiet but he kept talking. During the "spirited discussion," the pilot lost focus and concentration, and misjudged her relative position to a steel light post near a building. The pilot also said the sun was in her eyes. The airplane's left wing struck a pole, damaging the leading edge just outboard of the lift strut, and crushing the aft spar.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: TAXI

Findings

1. (C) CLEARANCE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - SUNGLARE

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.
the pilot misjudging the clearance between the airplane and a fixed object during taxi. Contributing factors were the pilot's attention being diverted and sunglare.